(e) the assistance being provided to patients who are being harassed by indisciplined people there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped, Kolkata is an autonomous body registered under Societies Act, 1860 and it has full powers to function independently as per its By-laws.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (e) National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped takes proper care of its patients and if any complaint is received from patients remedial steps are taken to redress the situation.

Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for SC/ST students

844. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to launch Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship (RGNF) to award fellowship to the students of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities pursuing higher studies;

(b) if so, the details of RGNF, indicating the eligibility criteria and duration of fellowship; and

(c) the amount likely to be allocated for RGNF?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Two New Central Sector Schemes namely 'Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship' (RGNF) for Scheduled Caste students and 'Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship' for Scheduled Tribe students for pursuing higher studies leading to M. Phil. and Ph. D. have been introduced during the current financial year 2005-06.

(b) Any student belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes category admitted to M. Phil./Ph. D. degree in a University or academic institution will be eligible for the award of the Fellowship. The Fellowship is on the same scale as the University Grants Commission (UGC)'s Scheme of Junior Research Fellowships (JRF). The tenure of fellowship

will be for five years, two years for Junior Research Fellowship and three years as Senior Research Fellowship subject to satisfactory progress of Research work.

(c) Actual expenditure will depend upon response of students towards the scheme.

Pension scheme for disabled persons

†845. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of disabled persons in the country;

(b) whether Government have considered or are likely to consider to launch a pension scheme for those persons who are totally disabled and unable to do any work; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) According to Census 2001, there are 2.19 crore persons with disabilities in the country.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The subject matter of providing pension to persons with disabilities comes under the purview of the State Governments/U.T. Aministrations. Many State Governments/U.T. Administrations are providing disability pension to persons with disabilities.

Impact of schemes for street children

†846. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme for street children has failed;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons, for its failure; and

(c) the efforts made by Government to make this scheme successful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No, Sir.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.